

# This Old Murray

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## Murray History Advisory Board

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## Utah ShakeOut Neighborhood Meetings

Murray History and Building Departments will host neighborhood meetings during the week of Utah's Shakeout Earthquake preparedness drill. If you live in a home built before 1970, join us for informational meetings conducted by the Murray City building inspectors to discuss ways to minimize structural damage to homes in the event of an earthquake.

Select the style of home that matches yours:

### Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 pm

rambler/ranch 1950s-60s, 5442 Avalon Drive

### Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 pm

SCR brick/modified flat roof (1960s), 5801 S 590 West

### Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 pm

SCR block/modified flat roof (1950s), 1200 E 5690 South

### Saturday, April 21 at 11 am

unreinforced brick, 1900-1940s, 4843 Poplar

### Saturday, April 21 at 1 pm

split level, 1950-1970s, 825 E Southwood Drive

Additional information can be obtained by visiting a city booth on Thursday, May 10 at Lowe's (469 West 4500 South) and Wednesday May 23 from 10 am to 2 pm at Fashion Place Mall. The Murray City Building Department will be promoting building safety and providing answers to often-asked questions about building codes and can answer questions related to your home.

**Family History Fair** has been planned by congregations

from the LDS church in Murray on June 9 at Murray High. The event is open to the public and will involve a number of professionals providing classes on research techniques and available resources. Registration will be available sometime in May at [www.murrayfamilyhistoryfair.com](http://www.murrayfamilyhistoryfair.com). The Murray City museum will have a booth with a list of local resources and Murray history publications. Some products will be discounted for the event.

**Murray's Historic Registry** which features over 400 historic homes, businesses, and districts can now be accessed through the Murray Library on-line photo collection. The website provides a short history and description of the architectural style of each building. This project is part of a Utah State History Grant..

**Murray History Resources** include a number of publications including a children's history book, family files, museum, a cemetery database, and over 6000 photos of early Murray residents, buildings, and events, and old Murray Eagle Newspapers on Murray library's website.

**Murray City Museum** is located at the south end of City Hall at 5025 South State. It is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1 to 5 pm, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 12 noon, and Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm. Scout troops are encouraged to include a visit to the museum when attending a city council meeting for the Citizenship in the Community merit badge. Group tours can be scheduled by phoning 801-264-2589.

**Cemetery Tours** are scheduled for school children May 21-24. Tours can be arranged for groups (adults or children) by phoning 801-264-2638. If you are willing to help tell stories of people buried there, contact Mary Ann Kirk at 801-264-2638. Murray Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Utah dating back to 1874 and includes several prominent pioneers.

**Cemetery Mapping.** In order to find a grave in a cemetery, you need a name and if possible a birth and death date. Then you contact the cemetery office to find the burial location number. Most cemeteries have similar mapping systems. The Murray Cemetery is divided into blocks or sections. The cemetery currently has 19 blocks. Each block is divided into lots - as many as 200 lots in a block. The lots are numbered in rows. These numbers are stamped in cement markers. The numbers can be confusing because the numbers in various blocks move in different directions. Sometimes you have to check out the order of each cement number to determine the direction. Each lot is usually divided into 8 graves.

# Cemetery Headstones Tell A Story

A headstone can describe a person who is buried there. It usually includes:

**Inscription** such as names, dates, birth places, family relationships

**Artwork/Symbols**

Religious - lambs, wreath, hands, cross, rose, scriptures

Interests - boat, golf clubs, bingo card

Service - War Veteran

**Epitaph** or short statement in phrase or poetry inscribed on gravestone in memory of buried person

Utah cemeteries are unique because many of the older and beautifully ornate gravestones were created by masons. Stone cutters or masons were trained to carve names and beautiful shapes out of stone by hand. Many masons came to Utah to help build the Salt Lake Temple and the beautiful artwork on it. Many of these masons also found work making headstones for graves.

Before 1900, masons used marble. It was a soft rock which allowed the mason to cut it by hand with hand tools (hammer and chisel). The cemetery rock you see in the Murray Cemetery was transported via trains from Vermont (eastern US) in blocks. The mason would carve the shape and details of the headstone and then cut the lettering and design for the epitaph.

Almost all of the early stone cutters came from England and were trained in a style called “gothic”. Gothic styles include pointed spires, arches, columns, statutes and ornate features. The masons used this style in headstones. Other artistic designs included religious symbols such as rosebuds, clasped handshake, lambs, books, broken trees, urns, draped cloth, and a tree stump. The different carvings and shapes were symbols that had meaning to these people and they gave clues about the loved one who had past on.

## Burial Customs

**Ancient Egyptian** royalty embalmed or preserved the bodies of their dead with a special chemical. They then wrapped the bodies and placed them in elaborate tombs inside pyramids.

**Native Americans** placed the body on a bed at the top of a scaffold and burned it. This helped prevent spread of disease and they believed the spirit was received into heaven.

There are several ways people are buried in the Murray Cemetery.

## Coffins or caskets

- . Wooden early on. Later metal casket with beautiful decorations.
- . Individually or sometimes buried with a child
- . Marker usually marks the grave unless it was destroyed or families had no money to buy one.

## Family vault

- . Room for many coffins
- . Stairs go down inside
- . Permanently covered when filled
- . Usually includes a family marker
- . Vaults in many parts of the world are built above ground because the water table is high.

## Cremation/niche

- . Body heated till ash - placed in small box
- . Method often used where population is large and land is minimal such as in Japan.